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General and complete disarmament: missiles

Missiles

Report of the Secretary-General**

Addendum

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* A/55/150.
** The replies from Member States were received after 5 July 2000.

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II. Replies received from Member States

Bangladesh

[Original: English]
[6 July 2000]

1. Proliferation of missiles, both conventional and nuclear, presents a significant threat to world and regional security. Bangladesh, as a signatory to the Non-proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, has always pioneered in all international and regional efforts in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means. The Government of Bangladesh greatly appreciates the United Nations efforts for a comprehensive approach towards missiles in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner.

2. The views of the Government of Bangladesh on General Assembly resolution 54/54 F on missiles are as follows:

(a) The United Nations should gradually work for the establishment of an international/United Nations body to monitor/verify the development/proliferation of missiles. As an initial step, the United Nations may adopt a provisional agenda to include a special reporting instrument for missiles under the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms through which the Member States may be asked to provided the following information:

(i) Detailed statistics of missiles by type, that is, range of the missiles and kinds of warhead they can carry;

(ii) Deployment location of the missiles and perceived threat against which they have been deployed;

(iii) Country of origin, including transfer of any technology related to development of missiles;

(b) Long-range missiles (over 30 km) are likely to hit non-military targets/civilian population and, as such, should be banned from future production;

(c) All missiles capable of carrying warheads with nuclear, bacteriological and chemical agents should be banned from future production and current stockpiles should be gradually reduced and finally destroyed.

3. Bangladesh fully endorses the commitments made towards the gradual reduction and dismantling of nuclear missiles deployed around the world, in the forward-looking document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Islamic Republic of Iran

[Original: English]
[25 July 2000]

1. The Second World War witnessed the emergence of missiles as effective strategic means of warfare in that they would enable the military to expand the battlefields well beyond the conceived limitations imposed by the then-existing weapons. Soon, major military powers turned to mass production and development of a wide range of missile systems, which secured a prominent role for missiles as means of warfare and deterrence.

2. With further scientific and technological progress, missiles have become more sophisticated and that, in turn, has increased their significance in military doctrines. New States have also joined the previously exclusive club of missile technology possessors.

3. The use of missile technology is not confined to military applications. The enormous potential peaceful applications of missile technology for exploration of outer space, telecommunication and broadcasting offer incentives for further development and possession of missile-related technology by States.

4. The recent ambitious and yet defying missile programmes, such as anti-satellite and/or anti-ballistic systems, have introduced new and emerging challenges. These would but instigate a new arms race, in particular in outer space, and as such could certainly be regarded as a disservice to the long-standing and arduous disarmament efforts.

5. At present, there exists no multilaterally negotiated treaty or agreement regulating the production or development of missiles. However, it should be noted that the major international treaties banning production, stockpiling and development of weapons of mass destruction do contain provision on

the prohibition of their means of delivery, including missiles specifically designed for delivery of such weapons.

6. Over the years, initiatives have been launched by States and non-State players, including non-governmental organizations, with a view to broadening consultations and forging arrangements for export controls and dissemination of information on missiles and their potential advantages as well as threats. However, none has been fully conducive to a comprehensive, non-discriminatory and effective approach. At the same time, the question of missiles has become of an ever-increasing transnational and transregional nature. That being the case, there is a need to search for an effective encompassing mechanism, devised by the United Nations, to strike a balance between the applications of missile-related technology and political and strategic concerns. Given the existing circumstances and the complexity of the issue at hand, a prudent approach would prove more availing. That is to say, at this stage, it might not be necessary to automatically take the stereotypical path of negotiating a convention banning missile development and proliferation.

7. Therefore the Secretary-General of the United Nations should be entrusted with the mandate to study the question of missiles with the assistance of a panel of governmental experts nominated by the latter and taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution as well as regional security concerns and interests, and thereupon submit his recommendations for a possible global approach. Such a study may cover, inter alia, the following:

(a) A general assessment of the overall programmes for development and production of various types of missiles worldwide;

(b) Overall scientific and technical research for quantitative development of the missiles already deployed and plans for development of new generations of missiles;

(c) Efforts by States or groups of States in addressing the question of missiles at the regional and international levels;

(d) Military doctrines of States and the role of missiles therein as a deterrence or threat perception;

(e) Views of civil society on the practical approach towards missiles;

(f) Possible general principles to govern voluntary confidence-building measures at the regional and global levels.